

REMARKS

Applicant's representative wishes to thank Examiner Cho and Examiner Sitton for their courtesies during an Office Interview on February 13, 2007.

Pursuant to discussions during the Interview, applicant provides below a summary of the data contained in the Specification that support a strong correlation between a particular SNP genotype and milk production trait.

Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the milk production trait data concerning SNP position 989. As shown in Table 1 on page 5 of the specification, the difference between Haplotype 1 and Haplotype 6 is at SNP position 989. Specifically, at position 989, the nucleotide identity is T while it is C for Haplotype 6.

The data summarized in Tables 3, 4 and 5, and explained in ¶ [0073] of the Specification, clearly show that the T genotype for position 989 are strongly correlated to significant increase in milk productive life and decrease in somatic cell score (SCS) in the milk.

During the interview, the Examiners and the undersigned discussed the outstanding claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1, for lack of enablement. It is now understood that this rejection is based on whether the claimed method can be "used" by one of ordinary skills in the art without undue experimentation. As a consequence of this discussion, applicant has amended Claim 12 to recite that it is a method for selectively breeding dairy cattle for improved milk production traits, rather than simply for detecting the SNP identity. Applicant respectfully submits that this claim amendment, coupled with the data in the Specification showing the strong evidence that SNP position 989 correlates, statistically significantly, to marked increase in milk production trait, has overcome this claim amendment.

Furthermore, the claim amendment has obviated the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), because the reference cited does not in any way teach or suggest a cattle breeding method.

In view of the above amendment and foregoing remarks, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 11-0553, under Order No. 2901803.3 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: March 22, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By /Kening Li/
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